

## Town taps Emerson to be new harbormaster

By Susanna Sheehan  
Clipper Editor



**Newly appointed Duxbury Harbormaster Jake Emerson is seen here in a November photo inspecting oysters taken out of season.**  
Photo courtesy Duxbury Harbormaster Twitter

Duxbury native Jake Emerson has been named the town's next harbormaster.

Town Manager René Read announced Emerson's appointment Monday night at the weekly Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Emerson, who has worked for the harbormaster's department since 2000, is enthusiastic about his new job. He replaces Harbormaster Don Beers, who retired this past fall after 38 years on the job.

"I'm really excited for this opportunity," said Emerson, who is married with two daughters and lives in Kingston.

Emerson, 37, moved to Duxbury when he was 5 years old. He went to Berrybrook preschool, graduated Duxbury High School in 1998 and from the University of Richmond in 2002. His major at college was rhetoric and communications studies.

When he was a college freshman, Emerson began working as a part-time assistant for the harbormaster's department in the summer. In January 2003, he became the third full-time member of the department, serving as its first endangered species officer.

While Emerson is not looking to shake up his department quite yet, but he does have some ideas on how to make it more efficient.

"In the short-term, we need to start looking at technology for mooring issuances and other procedures," Emerson said, adding that things like mooring waiting lists should be updated online in order to be more user-friendly. "Who wants to be standing in line when they can be boating?"

Eventually, he would like to update the harbormaster's waterfront facilities, including the public restrooms and have the public pier area offer better information about the bay for both residents and non-residents.

Emerson is inheriting a busier-than-usual Duxbury Bay and a beach that is off limits in areas during the summer months. These two combine to create a jammed-packed high season for the harbormaster's office.

"I think a lot of the use of the bay recently has been because of peoples' inability to get out to the beach because of the endangered species," he said, adding that Duxbury's waterfront saw a lot more traffic last summer because the Plymouth state pier was closed. The key to managing the summer season, especially the beach, is communication, said Emerson. He said he plans to build on the success the department's has had with social media to let the public know when the beach is closed via Twitter and Facebook. Emerson said he knows he's got "big shoes to fill" left by Beers' legacy but he said he's up for the challenge.

"I'm really excited for this. It's something I've worked really hard for," he said.